

REMARKS

In response to the pending Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 6 so as to be in independent format. Claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 6. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-13 have been cancelled, without prejudice. As claims 5 and 6 were indicated to recite patentable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 6 are patentable as amended herein.

With regard to the objection to the drawings, Applicants submit an amended version of Figs. 8(a)-8(c) which include reference numbers 310 and 320 corresponding to the dual use pad and the metal wiring 320, respectively. It is noted that as described in paragraph [0047] of the specification, the dual use pad 310 is composed of an uppermost metal wiring layer 312, a metal wiring layer 313 and a contact cluster 314. The metal wiring layer 320 is composed of an uppermost metal wiring layer 321, a metal wiring layer 322 and a contact cluster 323. The amended drawing is provided herewith for the Examiner's review and approval. Once the amended drawing has been approved, Applicants will provide a revised formal drawing.

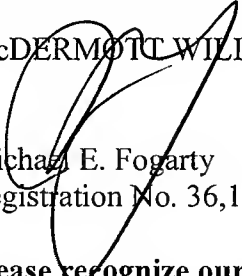
Having fully responded to all open issues raised in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

Application No.: 10/593,277

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Respectfully submitted,

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